

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00
/060 W

-----043446 261030Z /20

P 261013Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7880

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 04010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT, SHUM, TW

SUBJECT : CH'EN CHU

REF: (A) STATE 161511, (B) STATE 161637

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR VISITED MOFA JUNE 26 TO DISCUSS CH'EN CHU ARREST CASE. COUNSELOR REPEATED POINTS MADE IN PARAGRAPH 5, REF A (INCLUDING EMPHASIS ON CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST), MOST OF WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY AMBASSADOR AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH CHANG HSIAO-YEN. (NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR WANG MENG-HSIEN'S PRESENCE AT JUNE 26 MEETING WAS REQUESTED BY MOFA AND PRESENTED OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW OUR CONCERNS.) COUNSELOR STRESSED BELIEF THAT MANY IN THE U.S. WOULD BE INCLINED TO SEE CH'EN CHU'S CASE "GROSS" VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. DURING MEETING COUNSELOR RELAYED ORALLY AND PROVIDED MOFA WRITTEN TEXT OF QUESTIONS PARA 2, REF B, AND STATED ORALLY ONLY THAT EMBASSY WOULD LIKELY TO REQUEST PRESENCE OF EMBASSY OFFICER(S) IF CH'EN CHU'S CASE GOES TO TRIAL. COUNSELOR STRESSED EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED AS THEY BECAME AVAILABLE
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AND DID NOT REPEAT NOT WISH REPLY TO BE HELD PENDING ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS.

3. MINUTES PRIOR TO COUNSELOR'S VISIT TO MOFA, CHANG HSIAO-YEN TELEPHONED THAT VICE MINISTER YANG HSI-K'UN WISHED AMBASSADOR BE INFORMED THAT:

A. FOLLOWING HER ARREST, CH'EN CHU HAD BEEN TREATED PROPERLY AND WAS BEING PROVIDED WITH SMALL AIR CONDITIONED ROOM DURING HER DETENTION.

B. CH'EN CHU HAS BEEN "VERY COOPERATIVE" WITH GROC AUTHORITIES SINCE HER ARREST.

C. THE GROC WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE CH'EN CHU'S CASE ACCORDING TO "OUR LAWS."

D. A GARRISON COMMAND PRESS RELEASE WILL BE ISSUED PERHAPS LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 26 REGARDING CH'EN CHU'S CASE. (NOTE: OTHER SOURCES INDICATE IT MAY BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE RELEASE IS MADE.)

4. DIRECTOR WANG INDICATED THE ONLY QUESTION WHICH COULD BE ANSWERED AT THE PRESENT TIME WAS THAT CH'EN CHU WAS "QUITE ALL RIGHT." HE COMMENTED THAT SPECIFIC CHARGES WOULD BE LEVIED WHEN CASE GOES TO TRIAL, BUT BASIS FOR ARREST AND INVESTIGATION MAY BE CONTAINED IN PRESS RELEASE. HE SAID IF CHARGES ARE SERIOUS, SUCH AS CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD BE TRIED IN A MILITARY COURT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS NO FORMAL CHARGES WOULD BE LEVIED. WANG STATED THAT CH'EN CHU WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ALLOWED A LAWYER REGARDLESS OF WHERE CASE WAS TRIED. WANG
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SAID THAT IF CHARGES WERE VERY SERIOUS, NO MEMBER OF CH'EN'S FAMILY OR FRIENDS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO SEE HER BEFORE A VERDICT WAS GIVEN AS IT IS THE PRACTICE IN SUCH CASES TO ISOLATE THE SUBJECT IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEIR CONJURING UP ARGUMENTS OR SPURIOUS TESTIMONY.

5. COMMENT: WANG SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY OUR CONCERNS AND OUR QUESTIONS TO HIS SUPERIORS. ALTHOUGH, AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, HE EVIDENCED A CERTAIN RESENTMENT OVER OUR DEMARCHE, WE BELIEVE THAT HE WILL DO SO FAITHFULLY AND OUR VIEWS AND REQUESTS WILL BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION. UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI04010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-0557
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780618/aaaaapyo.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3d37667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 161511, 78 STATE 161637
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2201992
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CH'EN CHU
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TW, (CHEN CHU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d37667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014